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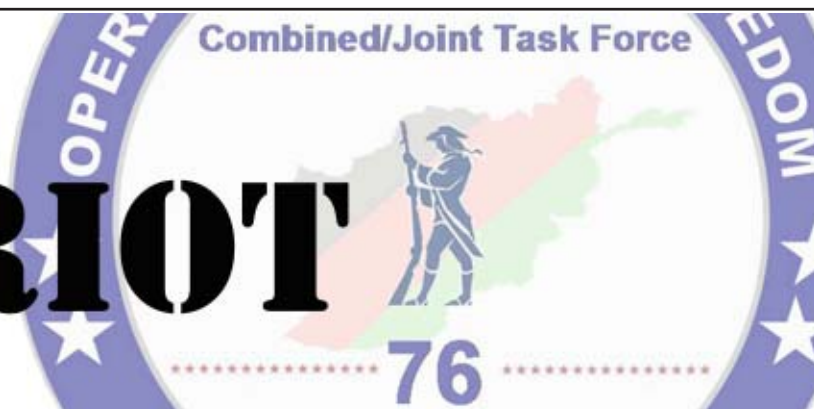
## PCC allows authorities to work together in Kandahar

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# THE PATRIOT



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## Paratroopers are on the way!



Paratroopers from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division walk across the tarmac moments after landing at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan July 16. The Paratroopers were rapidly deployed to Afghanistan to bolster security in advance of the upcoming provincial elections. (US Army photo by PFC Mike Pryor, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Public Affairs)

# 82nd bolsters pre-election troop level

**Story and photos by  
Pfc. Mike Pryor**  
*82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Public  
Affairs*

BAGRAM AIRFIELD – The first paratroopers from a battalion of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division rapidly deployed to Afghanistan to bolster security for the country's upcoming provincial elections began arriving here early July 17.

Approximately 700 para-

troopers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment arrived in Afghanistan over a span of a few days. They will join more than 1,500 Paratroopers from the 82<sup>nd</sup>'s 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team who have already been operating in the country since April.

"We are here to augment current forces on the ground and to provide additional security for the national provincial elections," said Lt. Col. Dave Anders, the battalion's

commander.

The added troops will allow Coalition forces to reinforce engaged areas without reducing offensive capability in other areas, said Combined Joint Task Force-76 officials.

The battalion, known as the Red Falcons, will be operating throughout the coalition sector, Anders said. All the Paratroopers are prepared to conduct "full spectrum" operations, he said.

"If we are asked to do offensive operations, we are prepared to do that. If it's stability operations, we can do that, too," he said.

This is the third rapid deployment of the 82<sup>nd</sup>'s forces to provide election security within the last year. The division sent a battalion to Afghanistan last September before the Afghan presidential elections, and two battalions to Iraq in December for its national parliamentary elec-

**See 82nd Page 3**

# Karzai sets goal to control country

*Associated Press*

ROME — Afghan President Hamid Karzai said July 22 that his government was determined to gain control over the whole country but would still require years of international support as Afghanistan emerges from decades of civil war.

On the second day of Karzai's visit to Italy, where he met Premier Silvio

Berlusconi and other officials, Karzai said heavy weapons in Afghanistan were "almost completely recovered," but added that "it will take a bit to complete the disarmament of the country."

Afghanistan, which has grappled with an unprecedented rise in violence in recent months, is expected to hold historic parliamentary elections in September.

"In September, (Afghanistan) will have completed the layers of foundations for the process of peace and stability and we hope that Italy will continue to look at Afghanistan beyond that period as well," Karzai said.

Karzai arrived in Rome on Thursday and met with President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, whom he thanked for Italy's support in Af-

ghanistan, where Italy has 910 troops.

The two issued a joint statement condemning the "ferocious attacks" in the London transport system, which came two weeks after the deadly suicide bombings in the British capital that killed 56 people.

"The people that committed murders in London just a few days ago ... are the same people killing clergy

in Afghanistan, killing children in Afghanistan, burning schools in Afghanistan." Karzai told a conference Friday.

"Those who commit murder in the name of religion don't belong to that religion, but to their own cult. They are merchants of death. It's a way of life that can be stopped only when the world gets united," he added.



## Coalition Voices / Opinion

# DUTY *A Soldier's essay*

**By. Spc. Erik Hauck**  
A Troop, 2-6 Cavalry, TF Sabre

Duty can mean a variety of things to different people. According to the Army values duty is defined as "Fulfill your obligations". If you go out and ask ten Soldiers the definition you might get one who will say that verbatim, but all the Soldiers will at least have a basic idea of what it is. This is because duty can mean different things to different people.

Most people today have many different types of duties. For instance all Soldiers have their duty to the Army.

Some have extra duties such as being a parent, a husband or a wife. The Army can even have its own "extra duty" such as Charge of Quarters (CQ) or Color Guard.

To me duty goes hand and hand with integrity. It means doing the right thing at the right time even if you have to take the hard right over the easy wrong. I have my duty to be

dependable and trustworthy to my sergeants. I have my duty to my fellow Soldiers to be dependable and keep up with my share of the work. I also have my duty to my helicopter to make sure that I keep it in the best shape possible and always mission ready. I also have a duty to my wife and family to always be there to support them morally and financially. Everyone has a different set of duties which they must work with and learn to balance out to have a successful life.

***"It means doing the right thing at the right time even if you have to take the hard right over the easy wrong."***

The problem for most people is prioritizing your duties. Spending time drinking with your buddies rather than showing up for work is a good

example. Fulfilling your duties often takes a lot of self motivation and discipline. When it comes time to do your duties there should be no grey area. You should be able to lay it all out in black and white and be able to see the consequences of the choices you make. Because it is you who makes those choices and it is you who will have to live with them.

## Up Front & Centered The Army Gets Trendy



**By Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter**  
TF Devil Public Affairs

In her first book, The Popcorn Report, marketer and trend forecaster Faith Popcorn named and predicted the rise of cocooning (the stay-at-home syndrome). Along with that trend she saw the coming of the decency decade, small indulgences and "cashing out," the phenomenon of men and women leaving the corporate rat race in search of a better quality of life. She also foresaw the failure of New Coke (or don't you remember that one?)

Here in the Army, we can see exactly what she's talking about. Who would have thought that a "barracks rat" would become en vogue? But today it's perfectly fine to order a pizza, rent a DVD, grab a six-pack and hunker down in your barracks room or family housing rather than going out. Many clubs and restaurants have responded to this trend by providing delivery service.

Back in the States, people are moving into housing developments with six foot high walls and armed guards while they shop online for clothes and groceries. They are buying big sturdy four-wheel drive vehicles (a civilian tank) and home security systems. That's cocooning, too.

Popcorn also says awareness of the need to save our society (S.O.S.) is at an all time high. Just by watching television you can see more politicians getting caught and suffering the consequences for dirty deals or just being

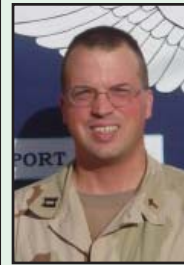
naughty. That's the S.O.S. trend.

Then there's cashing out (not to be confused with copping out or dropping out). Cashing out is cashing in your career chips and going somewhere else to work at something you want to do, the way you want to do it. In our civilian side of life, we have 38-year-olds working with us who have put in their 20 years of active duty in the military and are collecting retirement from that time. That gives them the luxury, if they feel like it, to take a second job that is more satisfying, but with a very low stress level. That's cashing out!

Indulging in small luxuries is another trend named in the Popcorn Report. People are treating themselves well but not busting the bank in the process. An example of small indulgences for soldiers and civilians overseas are a variety of shopping opportunities like being able to buy crystal in the Czech Republic or hand-painted pottery in Poland. In the Middle East you can find great deals on carpets, gold jewelry and semi-precious stones. And just about anywhere overseas we are tempted by Cuban cigars and chocolates from Germany, Switzerland, and Holland. Did I mention tax free cars like BMWs and Mercedes. Ok the last two examples might not be what you call a small indulgence but the others are just some small examples of how we can indulge ourselves while serving in the military overseas.

Faith Popcorn was basing her book on trends in America but when those Americans go overseas they take those trends with them. No matter what the trend is in the States you can bet that the rest of the world will be catching up soon. We trend to be moving in the same direction.

### Chaplain's Corner



**By Capt. Ronald Beltz**  
TF Sabre Chaplain

There was a famous tight-rope walker who performed in many cities and hundreds of people came to see him.

One day, during his show, he asked the audience, "The rope is many, many feet above the ground, and there is no net. If I should fall, surely I will be killed. Do you believe that I can make it across to the other side safely?"

The audience shouted back loudly, "Of course you can!"

To this, the tight-rope walker asked the audience once more, "Do you really believe that I will make it to the other side safely?"

Again, the audience shouted back, even louder and whistled as well, "Definitely you shall!"

The tight-rope walker asked for the third time, "Do you really, truly believe that I will make it safely across to the other side?"

And for the third time, the audience replied, this time, loudly whistling and stomping their feet, "Of course, you surely will!"

The tight-rope walker then faced the audience calmly and asked, "Since you are so sure, I invite one of you to come up here, and I will carry you across with me."

The audience fell silent and no one came forward. Suddenly, a little boy ran up to the tight-rope walker. He picked the little boy up, and they crossed over safely. When they reached the other side, the audience was shouting and clapping and they said, "The little boy is very brave!"

To this the tight-rope walker said, "The little boy not only believed I could make it to the other side, above all, he had faith that I could do it."

When you are faced with difficult challenges that life sometimes throws your way how do you respond? Are you like the audience that cheered the tight-rope walker on- only to grow silent when asked to join him? Or are you more like the little boy? Willing to risk, willing to trust, willing to step out in faith?

Do you have the faith to bravely face the challenges, new experiences and sometimes the scary things that confront us in life?

In the Bible the Old Testament Book, Deuteronomy 31: 6 has this message for us: "Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."

What are you putting your trust into these days? What do you have faith in? To conquer those challenges, those fears that we sometimes have to face in life we must put our faith, our trust in a God that will never fail or forsake us!

God's Peace.



# Across Afghanistan / CJTF - 76

## Red Falcons add muscle to force



Red Falcon paratroopers make their way back from a range outside Bagram Airfield shortly after arriving in Afghanistan.



The 82nd Airborne's Red Falcons disembark a C-17 upon arriving at Bagram Airfield. (Photo courtesy of Combat Camera)

### 82nd from Page 1

tions.

As a result of that history, this mission came as no surprise, Anders said.

“When you put on the maroon beret and the double-A patch of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, you know deployments go with the job,” he said.

As they settled into their temporary quarters at Bagram Airfield, paratroopers like 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dan Coulter of Bernardsville, NJ, the battalion medical platoon leader, said they were excited about the mission and the chance to help democracy flourish in Afghanistan.

“This is different than typical combat missions because we’ll get to see the difference we’re making in people’s lives firsthand,” Coulter said.



### Hitchin’ a ride

Staff Sgt. Peter G. Lentz, 1st Squad Leader, 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, hooks up a tow bar to a humvee that broke down during a convoy from Sharana PRT to FOB Orgun-E July 9. (Photo by Spc. Laura Griffin, TF Devil Public Affairs)

“I’m hoping the elections go through so that the Afghan people can enjoy the same freedoms that we do,” he added.

Although the 82<sup>nd</sup> has had units deployed to Afghanistan almost constantly since the beginning of the Global War on Terror in 2001, this is the Red Falcons’ first time in the theater.

Yet squad leader Sgt. Ernest Marsan of Fairfield, CT, said he had complete confidence in his fellow paratroopers’ ability to complete the mission successfully.

“We know our job and we’ve got a lot of seasoned veterans. When you know your job, you can go anywhere in the world and perform,” Marsan said.

### THE PATRIOT

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The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity.

Take pictures within your units. Look for unique shots that show your unit's mission and E-mail them to: **[schultea@cjtf76.centcom.mil](mailto:schultea@cjtf76.centcom.mil)**  
In the subject line, type "Photo Contest" and your name.

Submit by end of each month. The winner will be notified by e-mail. Three photos max per month.

Winning photos will run in **The Patriot** and **The Freedom Watch**.

Photographer will also receive a Commanding General coin and a 2-Star note.

Include Name, Rank, Unit, Job Description and hometown of photographer. Also, provide in the caption - the date, location, unit mission and identify any troops.

### Photo from the field



**Photo by  
Sgt. Chuck Meseke  
TF Devil Public  
Affairs**

Pfc. Jacob Shackleford and Spc. Thomas Schuster fire mortars during recovery operations following the June 28 crash of a Chinook helicopter in the Koringal Vally. Shackleford, Schuster and other paratroopers from Company C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, supported the special operations led recovery mission.



## Regional Command East / Task Force Thunder



(Capt) Doc. Brian Weber of the Jalalabad PRT, Doc. Gulchima. Maternal Child Health Program Coordinator, and Mrs. Toorpeky, managing midwives instructor, discuss the graduation ceremony and future plans with Amanda Rickman (right), International Health Services program manger, local head of the umbrella organization for the midwives program.

# Midwives offer brighter future

**Story and photo by  
Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Curtis  
Matsushige**  
*TF Devil Public Affairs*

JALALABAD - Afghanistan has one of the world's highest rates of maternal and infant mortality. According to International Medical Corps statistics, one in 10 Afghan women die in child birth, and one-fourth of the children don't live to see their fifth birthday.

The Medical College of the University of Nangarhar graduated 61 midwives and about 200 other students in some other medical professions July. Midwives represent a new hope for the survivability of infants and mothers in eastern Afghanistan. Many rural communities rely on the midwife as the sole professional care provider for pregnant women.

This graduating class of midwives comes from the Nangarhar, Konar, Laghman and Nurestan provinces.

There were various speakers at the graduation ceremony to include professors from different departments within the Medical College of Jalalabad, as well as the Minister of Health. The school thanked the Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the other agencies who helped in this large number of graduating midwives.

"These agencies and the Jalalabad PRT also provided supplies, instructors and facilities for the university and students," said Capt. Mike Weber, a physician's assistant

with the PRT and one of the speakers at the graduation.

Amanda Rickman is a program manager for the midwives training. She works for the International Health Center, a subsidiary of International Medical Corps, a U.S. non-profit organization providing health care and training in Afghanistan.

Rickman revamped the two-year midwife course to a standards-based program. From this revamp 26 different competencies were identified. Each area must be tested and students must score with a 70 percent or better to pass the class.

Procedural tasks such as handling a breech birth, positive identification of conditions that exist in the mother or unborn infant, and surgical techniques like suturing are among the competencies.

After Rickman arrived in February and settled in to her new duties, she extended the daily course work to a full day so competencies could be completed in a timely manner. After putting in place the standards-based evaluation she worked closely with the local hospital to give practical clinical time to these future mid-wives.

Before the training was over the class helped deliver a healthy baby and make sure the mother was fine.

Most of the midwives will return to their villages and put to use the practical skills and knowledge learned in this program. The newfound skills will greatly increase the survivability rate of Afghan children and mothers which has ranked as one of the lowest in the world.

## 2/3 Marines welcome new commander

**Story by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony Del  
Signore**  
*CJTF-76 Public Affairs*

JALALABAD AIRFIELD – Surrounded by the eastern Afghan mountains and amongst the hot, dusty, dry wind, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division held its change of command ceremony here July 15.

The Marines welcomed Lt. Col. James E. Donnellan and bid farewell to Lt. Col. Andrew R. MacMannis as the battalion colors were passed along.

"Marines of 2/3, you have a great reputation. I am only hopping on the train with you," said Donnellan to his Marines. "I hope to give the title of commanding officer justice."

Donnellan previous served as the ground and expeditionary operation officer for Marine Forces Atlantic and will be taking over a battalion that has been involved in the Global War on Terrorism in Afghanistan for approximately one month.

Donnellan also recognized his family after the ceremony and thanked them for their sacrifices.

"My family has really sacrificed as much or more than I have," said Donnellan. "I am doing what I signed up to do, and what I love to do... That is not what my wife signed up for and that's not what my kids signed up for, so they are really making a huge sacrifice and I really appreciate it."

Col. Patrick Donahue, commanding officer of Regional Command East, Afghanistan, also wel-

comed Donnellan and gave praise to the Marines he is now in charge of.

"This is an important day in the history of 2/3 Marines and the [Combine Joint Area of Operations]," said Donahue "The Marines look magnificent today as always."

"Lt. Col. Jim Donnellan welcome to Devil Task Force," continued Donahue. "You have a great reputation, and I know you will lead well. What I charge you to do is take this high performing unit and build upon the solid foundation [Lt.] Col. MacMannis left you and continue to excel. Most importantly, I want you to find and defeat the enemy of the Government of Afghanistan."

MacMannis has been the commanding officer of 2/3 since July 2003 and was awarded his fourth Meritorious Service Medal by Col. Chris Blanchard, commanding officer, Marine Coordination Element, Afghanistan, for his service.

MacMannis left his Marines with this piece of advice:

"You Marines need to stick to the basics, and continue doing what you know is right," said MacMannis. "You know your job, and you know how to instill discipline in those you lead."

"Enjoy your time here as well," continued MacMannis. "There are times you can enjoy yourselves with the local Afghan people, and you should take advantage of every opportunity that you have out here."

MacMannis will be moving on to Washington D.C. where he will attend the National Defense University.



The departing commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, Lt. Col. Andrew MacMannis (left), stands at attention after passing the battalion colors to the new commanding officer Lt. Col. James Donnellan (background) as Sgt. Maj. R.J. Lafleur Jr. awaits to return the colors. The Change of Command ceremony was held July 15 in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.



# Regional Command South / Task Force Bayonet



Sgt. Shane Valverde of the 492<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs Team, hands out civic-assistance supplies to children at an all-girls school in Lash Kar Gah. The supplies included paper, pencils, crayons, and personal hygiene supplies.

## Team set for new mission and challenges

**Story and photos Staff Sgt.**

**Jacob Caldwell**

*TF Bayonet Public Affairs*

LASH KAR GAH – The 492<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs Team from Phoenix has hit the ground running at the Lash Kar Gah Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Helmand Province.

Having only been in country for a little over three weeks, the eight-person team has been getting their feel for Lash Kar Gah and the province in which they will operate for the next year, according to Maj. Eric Kotouc, Civil Affairs Team-Bravo, officer in charge.

With little overlapping time with the previous civil affairs team, Kotouc counts himself and his team lucky that they have trained together at Camp Roberts, California and Fort Bragg, N.C.

“We were very fortunate that our squad remained stable. There were a lot of adjustments made to the battle roster right up until the day we left Bagram,” said Kotouc.

While training together and deploying together have been a big help in staying mission ready, the nature and content of the training itself have also been helpful, according to Sgt. Shane Valverde, 492<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs team member.

“We did a lot of cultural studies prior to coming here and that was probably the best thing that we did,” said Valverde, “It made it less of a cultural shock. Once we got here, we felt like we had already been here. All of these things we’ve been hearing about since we got here have been nothing new to us. It’s really helped us gain the confidence of all the non-government organizations working in the area.”

Although training has been crucial to the team’s early success, on-the-job training will be key in the weeks and months to come, to include learning to speak some Pashto, one of the major languages of the country.

“We only found out a couple of weeks prior to coming here exactly where we were going. That, in this country, makes a big difference,” said Valverde, “Each region speaks a different language, so you don’t want to waste your time.”

According to Kotouc, the mission is clear and three-fold: reconstruction, working with the provisional government and coordinating with other non-government organizations.

Making the rounds to meet all of the local officials in Helmand province has been a priority for the team since arriving in Afghanistan.

ing to have the same level of burden and responsibility that we had,” said Kotouc. “If we give the government agencies the capacity and some oversight to help them manage their capacity, then eventually that’s the exit strategy, getting them to be able to stand on their own feet.”

That and of course the NGOs.

“The main concern for the NGOs is security. If and when security conditions improve, more NGOs will be able to come here. They bring at least as much funding as we do, but don’t have all of the overhead of having to run around in armored vehicles and all of the

Valverde, “Most of the people here are genuinely happy to have us here. They are just like everybody back home. They just want to improve their lives and live their life.”

Valverde has already found the deployment to be full of rewarding experiences.

“Each day brings new rewards since this is such a broad type of job. Today we were handing out supplies to the kids. Just seeing their faces smiling, that was reward enough,” said Valverde.

The 492<sup>nd</sup> CA team has an advantage for working in the area that previous teams have not had, and her name is Spc. Alexandra Gardner, the first female member of a civil affairs team that has been out to this PRT.

Talking to the women of the community has been easier for Gardner than her male counterparts.

“The leader of the women’s center, once she met me, was really excited,” said Gardner, “She said that there a lot more issues that she can address with me.”

Cultural differences between Afghanistan and the United States have also been an eye opener for Gardner.

“Sometimes the men will come up and shake my hand and sometimes they will completely ignore my presence and they won’t even greet me. So it varies back and forth,” said Gardner.

“This is my first deployment, so the impression of the area is a little overwhelming at first. I remember [the previous civil affairs team] picked us up and we drove through Gereshk when it was dark. I was looking at the shops and the people sitting and I thought that this was really strange,” said Gardner, “But now I am opening up a little bit more and understanding their way of life. I am a little bit skeptical of everything around me but I’m opening up and trying to understand them.”



Sgt. Shane Valverde, (left) and Spc. Alexandra Gardner (middle right) talk to the head mistresses of an all-girls high school with the help of an interpreter. The team was discussing the needs of the school and the potential for future projects. The school is currently offering summer classes that include English and learning to operate computers.

“I am still getting around visiting all of the various departments and getting to know them,” said Kotouc. “I want to explore what their plan is, what their budget is, and what their shortfalls are so we can try to help build up their capacity.”

Along with the getting to know government officials, the team must also establish good working relationships with other agencies, known as non-government organizations that are offering aid to the Afghan people in the province. These groups are crucial to the team’s success in the province.

“The whole idea is to work ourselves out of a job. If all we do while we’re here is build stuff and create dependency relationships, then the next guy that comes is go-

force-protection measures that we have to take,” said Kotouc.

While overall the team has had a smooth transition, their arrival has not been without challenges.

“Getting around to visit and become familiar with each of the project sites has been a bit of a challenge,” said Kotouc. “In some cases, our interpreters are the only individuals still here who knew exactly where the projects were located.

Helping the team to overcome the challenges has been the warm reception by the people of Helmand Province.

“They have been very welcoming. I don’t think I have seen one bad word or gesture from the people since we’ve been here,” said



## Regional Command South / Task Force Bayonet

# Canadians to take over PRT

Story and photos by Sgt. Tara Teel

CJTF 76 Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD-** The Canadians are in Afghanistan and more are on their way.

The Canadian Ambassador, Christopher Alexander, spent the day, July 9, in Southern Afghanistan at the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team getting familiar with the areas of responsibility, missions and the deputy governor of the Kandahar province.

"The purpose of his visit was to make sure when the Canadians come to Kandahar they have the stuff they need," said Robert Maggi, the political advisor for the Combined Joint Task Force 76.

Alexander has been the Canadian Ambassador for 24 months and has traveled extensively to get more knowledge about the operations, the area and the people.

Alexander toured the facilities, met with the deputy governor of the Kandahar province, Dr. Mohammad Hanayun, and had an extensive briefing with the current staff of the PRT and Regional Com-



The Deputy Governor of Kandahar province, Dr. Mohammad Hanayun, and Christopher Alexander, the Canadian Ambassador, meet July 9 and talk about the Canadians taking responsibility of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team.

mand.

Sitting on an old couch, Alexander, Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, CJTF 76 Commanding General, and Col. Kevin Owens, 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Commander, discussed with Hanayun concerns for the Kandahar province. The topics of interest ranged from elections and security to education and the [Strengthening Peace Program].

"We are really looking forward to working with you and we really need your

help and support," Alexander told Hanayun.

Alexander also told the U.S. staff that hosting and connecting with the Canadians before they take over has been and will continue to be invaluable.

During the briefing, everything from the terrain features of southern Afghanistan to who the suspected 'bad guys' are was talked about in great detail.

The center of gravity for the Canadians has been in Kabul with the International Security Assis-

tance Forces. However, Alexander feels taking responsibility for the PRT is the next stage in connecting the key government in Kabul with the weaker, outer governments.

"We have chosen to be here because a military effort is still strongly needed in the fight against drugs and insurgency," Alexander said.

He wishes for Canada to repeat in Kandahar the success they have had in Kabul in the past years playing a strong role in security, counter narcot-

ics, and working with the Afghan forces.

For them to be successful however, the Canadians must multiply.

Currently there are only 10 Canadians at the PRT, but as the days pass more and more are relocating there from Kandahar Airfield. The Canadians at the PRT are engineers with one mission – to make more room.

"We are here for two months making more room because there will be more troops with the Canadians than there were with the Americans," said Capt. Francois Sauve, Canadian Army engineer. "We are making the kitchen bigger and adding more office space."

The American and Coalition forces will transfer authority over to the Canadians August 18 where more than 150 will be deployed. The soldiers will arrive about two weeks prior to get comfortable with the area, operations, and responsibilities.

This is just one more step of the U.S. handing the responsibility of Afghanistan over to ISAF. The western region was transferred over to the Italians May 31 and the southern region will be soon to follow.

## Authorities now working together in Kandahar

Story by Pfc. Jon Arguello  
TF Bayonet Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR** – Kandahar's authorities are one step closer to achieving maximum efficiency as they take steps to secure the province without help from Coalition Forces. A new Provincial Coordination Center was officially dedicated July 6, opening the door to a more efficient manner of responding to situations with the appropriate authorities.

The PCC, located in Kandahar City, has become a meeting point for Afghan National Police, National Army, NDS, highway patrol and Coalition Forces to address who should be tasked with whatever situation occurs.

"The idea is for the center to provide the capability of communication and synchronization for the

Afghan authorities until technology catches up to the demands of the agencies' responsibilities," said Lt. Col. Bertrand Ges, Task Force Gun Devil commander, who was present at the ceremony along with Kandahar Governor Assadullah Khaled.

"It has a large impact on the way the agencies do business," said Capt. George Whittenburg, Task Force Gun Devil intelligence officer. "As long as agencies keep talking to each other to this degree it streamlines operations and increases efficiency significantly."

The increased coordination and efficiency leads to greater security for the people in Kandahar province. There are immediate and long term effects, he said.

"It will have a positive effect on the elections in the short term by providing the citizens of Kandahar

a secure environment to vote in as well as providing security for the movement of the ballots," said Whittenburg.

"Over time, with technology, the requirement for a physical place to consolidate all of the agencies efforts will not be required as much and probably only during times of crisis," said Ges. "Right now, it is very important. It allows for the ANP, ANA, NDS, and Highway Patrol to synchronize and integrate their efforts. For example, if a spontaneous event occurs, the immediate reaction would be for the four agencies to immediately show up at the location to find out what is going on. By using the PCC, they could coordinate their efforts, thus becoming more effective."

With the communications capabilities increasing in Afghanistan, the deficiencies have been greatly re-

duced with the new PCC.

"It's an important milestone in order for the government to be able to communicate with each other and decide who needs to be where when," Whittenburg said.

A spokesman for Gov. Khaled said that the governor was very involved and supportive of the center. He wants it to succeed, and he's sure it will.

TF Gun Devil's commander shared his optimism.

"I believe New York City has an emergency center where key leaders from various agencies converge and meet in a command and control location," mentioned Ges. "Kandahar is making great strides to provide their people with a secure place to live and work. The PCC is just one step, but it's a big step in the right direction."



## Regional Command South / Task Force Bayonet

# Battle Company lives up to name in Lagman

Story and photo by Jason Chuddy  
*Stars and Stripes*

FOB LAGMAN,—Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment lived up to their “Battle Company” nickname Thursday, killing five Taliban and capturing 10 others during fighting at a compound about 15 miles west of the base. Aviation forces supporting the fight killed another enemy fighter.

The soldiers and members of the Afghan National Police were sent on the afternoon mission to capture a Taliban member who was believed to be living in the area.

“The dude we were going after was a Taliban money guy; he was the bankroller,” said Capt. Mike Kloepper, company commander.

He said the financier was not one of the 10 people captured. The soldiers were dropped close to the compound by a CH-47 helicopter from the Nevada Army National Guard’s Company D, 113th Aviation Regiment and two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the Germany-based 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment.

Almost immediately, the soldiers made contact with insurgents.

“A couple of people ran off,” explained Staff Sgt. Shayne Charlesworth, weapons squad leader, “but our aggressive actions were so fast they didn’t have a chance to get to their weapons.”

Soldiers detained seven men and collected

a handful of weapons as other unit members cleared a nearby village that was believed to be a home to insurgents.

Nothing was found in the village, but soldiers back at the compound continued their search.

AH-64 Apache helicopters from 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, covered the troops from overhead, scouting the area for the enemy and finding trenches and fortified caves.

“Now I’ve seen all aspects of combat,” said Charlesworth, “woods, cities, wide open spaces, mountains and now trench warfare.”

Soldiers killed two armed fighters in the trench line. Four other insurgents were killed nearby. This was the platoon’s first fight since returning from Kandahar, where they spent a month as the quick-reaction force for southern Afghanistan.

“We’ve been dry for two months,” said 1st Lt. Josh Hyland about the fight. “The biggest thing, at face value, was the morale for the platoon.”

“Our speed and aggression was built up over the past month,” Charlesworth said about their time in Kandahar, where they retrained their basic combat skills and spent hours working out.

“To see their aggressiveness, actually fight and see the guys’ reactions, I was really impressed,” said Charlesworth.

# TK Road nears completion

*Crucial link between Kandahar and Tarin Kowt set to open soon*

Story by 1st Lt. Laura Walker  
*TF Pacemaker Public Affairs*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD—One of the most encouraging successes of the United States Military presence in Afghanistan is the approaching completion of the TK Road, a road bringing together the cities of Kandahar and Tarin Kowt. Coalition forces have been dedicated to connecting Afghanistan by road, a task that has spanned 14 months and 117 kilometers.

With elections on the horizon, extending transportation routes into more rural areas of Afghanistan will play an essential role in encouraging the democratic process. Election dates have been pushed back twice due in part to the logistical difficulties of coordinating between provinces. Success in road construction here means not only making day to day life easier for the citizens; it facilitates the success of the first democratically elected government in Afghanistan.

The work on the TK road has been the focus of two different Army Engineer rotations. Road construction began during Operation Enduring Freedom 5 with the 528th Engi-



Two scrapers work along side a bulldozer on the road between Kandahar and Tarin Kowt. Heavy equipment operators are work long hot and dusty days to meet a projected completion date of Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. (Photo by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Brian Meister)

neer Battalion, from Louisiana. They completed 46.5 kilometers of road between July 2004 and February 2005. During OEF 6, Task Force Pacemaker Engineers took over construction. The Task Force is composed of active and reserve units of Alpha and HSC Companies of the 864th Engineer Combat Battalion Heavy (Fort Lewis, Wash.), Charlie Company C/ 864th ECB

(H) (Fort Richardson, Alaska), Alpha Company/391st Light Engineer Battalion (U.S. Army Reserve, Ashville, N.C.), Company C/926th Engineers (AR, Huntsville, Ala.), and the 298th Engineer Detachment (National Guard, Pearl City, Hawaii).

Task Force Pacemaker took over the construction in April, and will have completed a remarkable 70 kilometers of road work through

some of the most difficult terrain the country has to offer. Initial estimations put project completion somewhere in the spring of 2006, but efforts of the Pacemakers under Lt. Col. Paul M. Paolozzi, have moved the date to Sept. 15, just days prior to the new election date. The Pacemakers consider that achievement a victory in the war on terror. “The best weapons of the Taliban are not IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and RPGs (rocket propelled grenades), its ignorance and isolation,” said Paolozzi. “The road we’re building destroys both of those weapons by giving the people freedom of mobility and the capability to learn what the Afghani government is doing for them. They won’t need to be dependant on the Taliban for information, twisted thinking, or municipal support.”

Continued development is essential to any post-electoral agenda for peace building in Afghanistan. No matter the outcome of elections, the extension of routes into rural Afghanistan provides much potential in strengthening the new government’s credibility. The completion of the road couldn’t come at a better time.



## What's Happening / News You Can Use

# Army unveils active BCT stationing plan

By Cheryl Boujnida  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - As part of its largest restructuring since World War II, the Army announced its plan today for stationing its active component modular Brigade Combat Teams.

The plan includes new organizations being formed and other units being returned from overseas locations. The return of the overseas units adds up to 50,000 Soldiers and 150,000 family members being brought back to bases in the United States.

In the end state, the number of active modular BCTs will increase from 33 to 43, enhancing the active Army's combat power by 30 percent.

The plan was announced at a Pentagon press briefing conducted by Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army Raymond F. DuBois and Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody.

"Moving the Army to modularity represents the largest change of our Army since 1939," Cody said.

He also explained the benefits the Army and Soldiers will see from the stationing plan.

"What this does for us is it sets up the footprint of the United States Army," Cody said. "It optimizes the training areas. Posts, camps and stations are structured properly for the new weapons systems we have. It set us up for some great training opportunities. I think, over time, the big winners are going to be our Army families - because we can put a Soldier and his family at a post, camp or station there, and leave them there for four to five years."

Cody said the Army's modular force initiative and stationing plan will better posture the Army to meet its strategic commitments, to include ongoing global combat operations, while allowing it to continue transforming to meet the future demands of combatant commanders.

He explained the life cycle management of BCTs is stabilized through three-year rotation cycles. "The Army will not be moving its people around as much - this will reduce turbulence in brigades and battalions," Cody said. "This will stabilize forces and provide for more cohesion within brigade combat teams."

DuBois said the current plan ties perfectly into the Army's modular initiative, the return of troops from overseas and base realignment and closure recommendations.

"The selection of the BCT stations was a deliberate and analytical process," DuBois said. "In this complex set of chess moves, it shows

that Soldiers and family members remain the centerpiece of the Army and life will be more predictable for them."

DuBois said that the plan is a force stabilizer for Soldiers and family members and directly impacts their quality of life.

As a key element of the BCT stationing plan, the Army will implement the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy analysis recommendations by returning up to 50,000 soldiers from overseas locations by the end of the decade.

DuBois said the Army will not lose its presence overseas but the reduction of more than half of the forces will be a significant savings to U.S. taxpayers.

Two key recommendations of the analysis include the return of the 1st Infantry Division to Fort Riley, Kan., and the relocation of the 1st Armored Division to Fort Bliss, Texas. The 1st Infantry

Division will return in 2006 and the timing for the return of the 1st Armored Division is under review.

The Army selected locations for the modular BCTs based on existing and potential capacities, available training space, and current locations of similar and supporting units.

While the modular brigade combat teams follow historic division and brigade unit naming conventions, these units are of a completely different design than their predecessors. The essence of this transformational design is a new force that can be deployed singularly or in groups - ready for employment in a variety of designs as self-contained modules over a dispersed area. Essential to the success of this force will be the use of Army's installations as platforms from which to rapidly mobilize and deploy military power.

The Army modular force initiative involves the total redesign of the operational Army into a larger, more powerful, more flexible and more rapidly deployable force. It moves away from a division-centric structure to one built around the Army's new modular combat team.

Additionally, modularity - in combination with rebalancing the type of units - will significantly reduce the stress on the force because of a more predictable rotational cycle, coupled with much longer dwell times at home station.

This commitment to minimizing the turbulence for Soldiers and families remains a top priority for the Army senior leadership. To reinforce this commitment, during the stationing of BCTs and relocation of units, Soldiers will move with their families and family moves will not be scheduled until the Soldier redeploys.

*"Moving the Army to modularity represents the largest change of our Army since 1939" - Gen. Richard Cody*

## Submit your unit's story to The Patriot

Tell the whole CJOA what your unit is doing.

The Patriot is always on the lookout for amateur journalists and photographers who have a story to tell.

Send your stories to [schultea@cjtf76.centcom.mil](mailto:schultea@cjtf76.centcom.mil).

Stand alone photos are also welcome.

Remember when submitting stories and photos to remember the 5 W's of journalism: who, what, where, when and why.

Also include full names, rank and units of troops involved and of the author.

Stories will be edited for content and to meet journalistic standards.

## Army Reserve Soldiers to receive honor

Sixteen Army Reserve Soldiers from the Washington, D.C., area who served during Operation Iraqi Freedom were among the first to receive the new "Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award" recently.

Eventually, all Army Reserve Soldiers who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom will receive the award nationwide. It consists of an encased American flag, a specially designed commemorative coin, a lapel pin set for the Soldier and spouse, and a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen flag under this new Soldier-recognition program enacted recently by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush.

The Army Reserve expects to award this new honor to 70,000 Soldiers by the end of the fiscal year. These awards will be presented at ceremonies throughout the country as Army Reserve Soldiers return home. The ceremonies will be open to families, employers, co-workers, community leaders, and elected officials.

## Get mail faster

Note from spouse.

I discovered today why letters from Afghanistan go through JFK. The mail clerks in Afghanistan are trained to put any letters marked "FREE" where the stamp is supposed to go into the bags destined for JFK. Any letters marked "MPS" get off-loaded at Ramstein where they are sorted and delivered to CMRs in Europe.

Families should tell thier Soldier spouses to be sure and mark their letters to Europe-based DoD addresses "MPS" instead of "FREE." Of course, mail going ot the states can be marked "FREE" when mailed from downrange.

Just want to pass along a helpful tip my husband learned from talking to the mail clerks in Afghanistan.

**Free Stuff!** The Patriot will feature a web site per issue which offers free stuff for service members.

Free books, DVDs and CDs

<http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/forum/index.php>